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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. It is probable that the Bulgarian press played down the epidemic of scarlet fever which took many lives in the Fall of 1953. [redacted] The annual polio epidemics have also been severe, possibly more so than newspaper reports have indicated. Tuberculosis is a grave menace as well. [redacted] 40% of the workers, particularly those in the tobacco industry, have had tuberculosis. Bulgaria has a rate of TB incidence second only to India's, [redacted] drugs are scarce in Bulgaria, and many inhabitants of the country depend on friends abroad to send them medical items not available there. 25X1
2. Regarding the number of physicians, [redacted] their pay is very poor alongside the pay in other comparable professions (e.g., engineering). This undoubtedly has an adverse effect on the quality and quantity of young men who decide to enter the field of medicine. 25X1
3. Almost all adult citizens of Bulgaria participate in emergency medical training. A two-month course in first aid was held in which all Interior Ministry personnel attended. The course consisted of two 2-hour morning sessions a week. Every student was issued books for home study, took a final examination, and was awarded a badge to show successful completion of the course. The instructors were all doctors. Similar courses were given at night to people in the residential areas of Sofia who could not participate during working hours. Upon completion of the first course, a somewhat shorter one was given which covered the emergency medical defense against bombings, bacteriological warfare, fires, and poisonous gases. This second course was also compulsory for most of the populace. 25X1
4. [redacted] a system of "coefficients" which is used (among other tests) to determine the eligibility of recruits for military service. An individual's "coefficient" is his height in centimeters less the sum of his weight in kilograms and his chest circumference in centimeters. [redacted] 25X1

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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[redacted] the Trudovaks accept
men with coefficients ranging from about 5 up to 27. Present standards for the Trudovaks and the armed forces are not known [redacted]

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5. The Trudovaks have medical facilities roughly comparable to those of the Army, and these do not differ appreciably from those available to the civilian population. 25X1

6. In time of emergency, the armed forces will mobilize doctors and medical supplies from civilian hospitals, [redacted]

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7. [redacted] children born after World War II are less healthy than those born before World War II. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Tuberculosis appears to have hit the post-war children worse than those born before the last war. Food quality and variety are also definitely inferior in Bulgaria today than in the pre-war period. 25X1

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